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CHALLENGE

FIGHT FOR COMMUNISM ★ LUCHE POR EL COMUNISMO ★ PLP

THE REVOLUTIONARY COMMUNIST NEWSPAPER OF PROGRESSIVE LABOR PARTY

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Chicago

Multiracial Nurses Fight Sexist Working Conditions

CHICAGO, September 13— In preparation for their planned one-day strike today, a multiracial group of nurses at University of Illinois Hospital (UIH) protested for better wages and safer working conditions. They chanted, "You save money—We save lives!"

But the strike was called off this morning. Why? The union reached a tentative contract agreement, which must still be ratified by the nurses and approved by the University of Illinois' board of trustees. Details of the contract has yet to be released. Yet, the struggle is far from over.

The nurses were demonstrating in response to their stalled union contract negotiations with the sexist and racist hospital bosses. Progressive Labor Party (PLP) comrades here have been supporting the UIH nurses in their struggles against the bosses. PLP aims to win workers away from the reform struggle treadmill and towards the politics of revolutionary communism.

'Women's Work' of Nursing Devalued

Nursing is a majority-women profession and the ruling class always pays less for "women's work." The work itself is discounted and devalued simply by being done mostly by women. Sexism is why the hospital bosses think that any nurse can work any unit—the bosses think the work can't be that hard since women do it, therefore they should be able to do it wherever and under any conditions. This is sexist garbage. Nurses are crucial to patient care, and deserve a stable working environment. Without nurses, no hospital would cease to function.

The rampant sexism also explains why the hospital bosses think they can get away with terrible the nurses' working conditions. Their assumption is that women workers won't stand up and fight against their attacks. They are dead wrong!

From Pakistan to Haiti, from Poland to Chicago, women workers are leading the struggle to bury capitalism and replace it with an egalitarian communist world, one where all labor is valued.

Unsafe Working Conditions = Poor Patient Care

The UIH is a state hospital where the majority of its patients are Black and Latin workers, many of which are rely on federal and state aid. The hospital is a wreck: hazardous staffing ratios force nurses to accept direct patient care on top of managing the unit, and more. The UIH bosses are using racism to attack both healthcare workers and patients alike. The unsafe conditions lead to more stress and burnout for healthcare workers, which in turn leads to poor care outcomes for those same Black and Latin patients.



While racism and sexism are two potent weapons in the capitalist bosses' arsenal, they also expose two of the bosses' biggest weaknesses. Historically, the most significant worker movements have occurred struggles where the workers reject the bosses' divisions and unify across gender, race, nationality, and job titles to demand an increased living standard for all workers. It remains the task of the international working class led by the communist PLP to overcome the bosses' destructive divisions and organize for workers' power worldwide.

Bosses' Hack Union Will Only Sell Nurses Out

The 1,200 nurses represented by the Illinois nurses Association (INA) are demanding a mere an annual 3 percent cost-of-living increase. The Hospital proposing paying nurses a $500 cash bonus the first year of the contract with one percent increases in each of the next two years (Chicago Tribune, 9/5). Throughout the contract negotiations with the UIH bosses, the union misleadership has only proposed the usual plea for crumbs from management, including a paltry wage increase and permission for nurses to speak with union hacks during their shifts.

It's important for nurses to strike for better working and living conditions. The INA union misleaders only used the threat of a strike but called it off at the eleventh hour. They are not a legitimate fighting force representing the interests of the workers. If the INA actually cared about the success of a strike or the interests of the nurses instead of just collecting membership dues, they would be coordinating with other unions across a wide range of other professions to build the struggle into something much bigger. They would connect the sexist and racist attacks on nurses to the crises of capitalism and its drive towards imperialist war.

However, to do so means bringing attention to the union's own limits. Given their reformist nature, these collaborating unions will only take the struggle against their capitalist masters so far, before it's back to business as usual.

In It to Win It with Workers

Instead of winning workers to accept some crumbs, comrades in PLP are fighting to win workers to the idea that they deserve the entire cake. Whether it's nurses, mechanics, sanitation workers, or teachers, it's the international working class that truly makes the world go round. Armed with a Party organized for communist revolution, the world is ours to win. Supporting the brave UIH nurses is another step in that long struggle!✪

JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL FIGHT FOR COMMUNIST REVOLUTION

OUR FIGHT

☆Progressive Labor Party (PLP) fights to destroy capitalism and the dictatorship of the capitalist class. We organize workers, soldiers and youth into a revolutionary movement for communism.

☆The dictatorship of the working class — communism—can provide a lasting solution to the disaster that is today's world for billions of people. This cannot be done through electoral politics, but requires a revolutionary movement and a mass Red Army led by PLP.

☆Worldwide capitalism, in its relentless drive for profit, inevitably leads to war, fascism, poverty, disease, starvation and environmental destruction. The capitalist class, through its state power — governments, armies, police, schools and culture — maintains a dictatorship over the world's workers. The capitalist dictatorship supports, and is supported by, the anti-working-class ideologies of racism, sexism, nationalism, individualism and religion.

☆While the bosses and their mouthpieces claim "communism is dead," capitalism is the real failure for billions worldwide. Capitalism returned to Russia and China because socialism retained many aspects of the profit system, like wages and privileges. Russia and China did not establish communism.

☆Communism means working collectively to build a worker-run society. We will abolish work for wages, money and profits. While capitalism needs unemployment, communism needs everyone to contribute and share in society's benefits and burdens.

☆Communism means abolishing racism and the concept of "race." Capitalism uses racism to super-exploit Black, Latin, Asian and indigenous workers, and to divide the entire working class.

☆Communism means abolishing the special oppression of women— sexism—and divisive gender roles created by the class society.

☆Communism means abolishing nations and nationalism. One international working class, one world, one Party.

☆Communism means that the minds of millions of workers must become free from religion's false promises, unscientific thinking and poisonous ideology. Communism will triumph when the masses of workers can use the science of dialectical materialism to understand, analyze and change the world to meet their needs and aspirations.

☆Communism means the Party leads every aspect of society. For this to work, millions of workers — eventually everyone — must become communist organizers. Join Us!

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WHO WRITES FOR CHALLENGE?

CHALLENGE is for the working class, produced by the working class. The fact that CHALLENGE/PLP articles are not signed grows from PLP's criticism of the cult of the individual in the former socialist Soviet Union and China. We do not want to encourage the possibility of building up a "following" around any particular individual.

While an article may be written by one person, the final version is based on collective discussion and criticism. Many times this collective discussion even precedes an individual's writing of an article.

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Editorial

Capitalism: An Unnatural Disaster

The devastation of mass flooding in South Asia, West Africa, and the U.S. has exposed the anarchy of capitalism, a failed system that magnifies destruction instead of preparing society to get through the storms.

Under capitalism, resources are invested where the greatest profits can be made. In general, capitalist bosses have little interest in keeping themselves in check—partly out of greed, but mainly out of fear that other capitalists will get to those profits first.

This profit-driven pathology leads to ever growing chaos as development, pollution, and overcrowding into unplanned cities outpaces the minimal resources the rulers allot to manage the problems.

This is a world crying out for the sanity of communism, a world built around the needs of the masses of people, the international working class. A system based on workers' needs—not the bosses' profits—would channel the massive resources now hoarded by the capitalists to be used instead for the good of society.

Under capitalism, mass destruction is barely addressed once the news cycle moves on. This is most apparent when the people suffering are Black, Latin, or Asian. Racism becomes a tool used both to hide what is happening and to justify the mass poverty that generates poor housing and subsistence living standards for hundreds of millions of people across the globe.

Under communism, problems of development would be dealt with in open and honest struggle. Once again, the needs of the working class would be primary.

South Asia: Stripping the Hills

Flooding across India, Bangladesh, and Nepal killed over 1400 people and left more than 40 million homeless or without the basic means to sustain themselves. "Across flood-affected parts of Bangladesh, India and Nepal, millions of people have lost their main source of income, whether it be from destroyed crops and dead livestock, damage suffered to local businesses or because they are displaced" (Independent, 9/7).

Hardest hit were families that "live in bare mud houses and rely on subsistence farming....Those farms are now underwater, and thousands of people are stuck living under plastic tarps in camps for displaced people where disease is beginning to spread (New York Times, 8/29).

South Asia is struck by monsoons every year, often with flooding, but capitalism has vastly worsened the problem through the race for profits that leads to unplanned farming and industry that wreaks havoc on people's lives. The latest siege of floods in India was aggravated by barren hillsides, stripped to accommodate industrial farming. As the hillsides collapsed and riverbanks disintegrated, floods crashed into densely populated communities. According to N. Biren Singh, chief minister of the northeastern Indian state of Manipur, hills in the neighboring state of Assam "in particular have suffered from deforestation besides conditions influenced by climate change" (Hindustan Times, 9/10).

Sierra Leone: Routine Disasters

A similar situation has unfolded in Sierra Leone in West Africa, where unsafe housing is routinely swept away during the rainy season. Just outside Freetown, the country's capital port city, flooding last month led to a mudslide that killed more than 400 people, with another 600 or more missing (Al Jazeera, 8/19). The disaster struck the outlying town of Regent, a settlement of over one million people. Because of massive poverty, they are forced to build homes on a steep hillside while seeking work in the capital.

"There is little to no urban planning going on in the city at all levels of society.… There is a chronic housing deficit in the city and the issues only get discussed on an annual basis when flooding happens and [it] comes into the spotlight. Although the government has relocated some communities from informal housing [squatter communities], these are often forced resettlements which leave residents on the outskirts of the city so many soon return to their original homes" (The Guardian, 8/14).

Texas: Bosses' Incompetence

In Texas, Hurricane Harvey damaged or destroyed over 185,0000 homes, leaving more than 40,000 people in shelters (ABC News, 9/1). The bosses' decision not to evacuate left thousands stranded in the rising waters. The capitalists proved once again that they have no ability to quickly and safely redirect resources to serve workers' needs in emergencies.

In 2005, when Houston was evacuated during Hurricane Rita, hundreds of thousands of people who left to evacuate on their own were jammed and stalled on highways to nowhere. People were trapped without food or water. An illegal bus carrying nursing home residents exploded, killing 26 people.

Twelve years later, the continued haphazard growth of Houston has left the city no closer to an effective evacuation plan, even when there is ample warning of an impending disaster.

Racist Media Coverage

While there has been extensive reporting on the flooding in Texas and Florida, news coverage of the monsoons that have ravaged millions of Black, Latin, and South Asian workers around the world have barely been covered by the 24/7/365 /news networks, which compete for the most ridiculous celebrity gossip to fill their air time.

Additionally, the news barely referenced the fact that most people forced into shelters in Texas and now Florida are poor Black and Latin workers without resources to evacuate.

Resources Toward Profit

As the Washington Post (8/29) noted, Houston's flooding was made exponentially worse by the area's rampant overdevelopment, which has paved over wetlands and other areas that once served as a natural drainage system for floodwaters:

> *Growth that is virtually unchecked, including in flood-prone areas, has diminished the land's already-limited natural ability to absorb water, according to environmentalists and experts in land use and natural disasters. And the city's drainage system — a network of reservoirs, bayous and, as a last resort, roads that hold and drain water — was not designed to handle the massive storms that are increasingly common.*

Capitalism is about profits above all else. In a world where the bosses spend trillions of dollars on war, build skyscrapers on manmade islands, and send tourists into space, billions of people live in mud homes or tin shacks or in cheaply built housing tracts in known flood paths. Capitalism is incapable of effectively guiding society. As long the bosses' profit keep rolling in, they do not care if workers live or die.

But after workers seize power under communism, and abolish money and profit, resources will be shared according to the needs of our class. Floods, monsoons, and earthquakes will be prepared for. Development will be governed by safety and rational planning. The unnatural disasters of capitalism will become relics of the past.✪

Santa Monica: Shut Down Fascist Disrupters

SANTA MONICA, Sept 10—A multiracial group of Progressive Labor Party (PLP) and friends joined hundreds of antiracists to shut down Nazi disrupters at the Committee for Racial Justice (CRJ) in Santa Monica. This was an opportunity to fight racism.

The CRJ, established in 2010 after a racist incident in Santa Monica High School, is a multiracial organization committed to fight racism. They have organized vigils for the murders of Trayvon Martin and Mike Brown and they also fight for equity and justice for Black parents in the Santa Monica school system.

Recently CRJ was come under siege by a collection of fascists known as the Proud Boys, Red Elephants and Da Goyim Know. These groups of white men armed with bandanas over their faces and baseball caps have interrupted the CRJ meetings with racist, anti-Semitic filth and even denounced one of the white co-leaders of the CRJ as a Jewish agitator, and chanted, "Blue lives matter." The racists were preventing CRJ from functioning.

Since the racists vowed to return with bigger numbers, we began to mobilize. We called our friends and co-workers. Fighting racism is an essential part of fighting for a communist future, so we saw this as a serious opportunity to do both. Armed with knowledge and experience of driving racists out of San Francisco and Berkeley in Northern California (see CHALLENGE, 9/13), we were ready to take on the racists in LA.

Insight with Other Groups

In an effrot to protect the 124 members in the building, CRJ had a closed meeting. Some of the PL contingent were inside and some were outside.

Trump's presidency has emboldened the racists and is creating a base for a mass racist movement in the U.S., but many antiracist groups have emerged to fight back. There are lots of groups and individuals with whom we can dig in and build long term relationships. Through the class struggle and building political relationships, we can make in-roads with our communist ideas.



Members of CRJ push back against racists disrupters

Those of us outside talked members of one group in particular called Redneck Revolt. They are a predominantly white, but multiracial (and usually armed), community organization against racism. The group claims back the word and history of "Redneck," originally synonymous with armed working-class fightback. The mineworkers tied red bandanas around their necks during the Battle of Blair Mountain, a two week long armed multi-racial revolt in coalfields of West Virginia, earning them the lable "redneck.".

Through conversations it was clear that the group is mainly reactionary, but the group's existence shows that some white workers indeed know the history of working-class fightback and choose the side against capitalism and racism.

One Fight Won

Those who went into the meeting have been part of CRJ for a while. Through this mass organization, they are making connections with the community and pushing to sharpen the anti-racist fight back in the neighborhood and schools.

The meeting was able to continue as planned. The racists did not show up, but we have to be on guard for future events in this organization. They flaked out because of the huge antiracist crowd ready to take them on if need be.

The anarchists and Redneck Revolt provided "security", but the biggest "protection" was the Santa Monica Police Department. Therein lies a big contradiction. While the CRJ is committed to standing up against racist police murder, the struggle still continues to understand the nature of the police and capitalism. We must show up in bigger masses to wage this struggle and ensure the Nazi creeps don't show their faces again.✪

Boston: Smash Nazis, KKK, & Republicrats

BOSTON, August 19—The City braced for a post-Charlottesville, Neo-Nazi Free Speech rally at the Boston Commons. The Progressive Labor Party contingent joined the 40,000 antiracist demonstrators, which included their co-workers, friends, and union. We held a large banner that read "No Free Speech For Fascists, Smash Racism With Multi-Racial Unity." We distributed 1,500 leaflets.

Various unions, Black Lives Matter groups, and others planned two anti-racist protests. One demonstration was held in front of the Massachusetts State House, a quarter mile away from the speakers. The other began two miles away from the Boston Common.

The racist speakers were located in a bandstand in the center of the Common, protected with jersey barriers, fences, Boston police and tactical police, with state police support. Helicopters flew overhead, and sound cannons setup for crowd control.

Reject Republicrats

While public schools face cutbacks and school closures and working people increasingly can no longer afford to live in the city of Boston, Mayor Walsh has chosen to spend over a million dollars to protect fascists and white supremacists. By granting a permit, without even a court fight, Walsh and his capitalist puppet masters have given a victory to these racists. Students of history might remember that the Nazi party rise in 1920s Germany was accelerated after Hitler successfully rallied in left-leaning Berlin. The current crop of fascists, view this rally as a similar opportunity.

Liberal politicians like Walsh and right-wing politicians like president Donald Trump are two sides of the same capitalist coin. While Trump openly promotes the fascists, the liberals protect their ability to organize. Both types of politicians serve various factions of the U.S. capitalist class. These capitalist see their empire slowly crumbling. They are willing to use any means necessary to preserve their investments, including going to war abroad and promoting fascism at home. They fear a united working class opposing their plans. They do whatever they can to divide us along racial, gender, national and other lines. This is why we must unite Black, Latin, Asian and white working people to fight these fascist vermin and their capitalist backers. Ultimately, we must abolish capitalism, a system where eight capitalists have more wealth than half the world's population.

Fight Back like a Worker

The fascist rally used only 45 minutes of their state-sanctioned two hours. The police escorted them out. The police were in formation and marching out to confront anti-racist demonstrators. We leafleted, spoke to friends and anti-fascist demonstrators, and learned a few things: As police were leading out the fascists, workers on the streets boldly attempted to fight them; there were 33 arrests. There were unaffiliated anti-fascists at the bandstand shouting to the 30 or so fascists. One of the racists came off the bandstand and into the crowd raising his hand in a Nazi salute. He was then punched by an anti-racist.

Unlike Charlottesville, this march had a large number of anti-racist protesters, and few to no vigilante fascists roaming about. This shows that there are many people willing to stand up against fascism.

However, we should not let down our guard. Fascist and racist groups are being reorganized under a less overt racist guise emphasizing a "clean cut" look without the skinhead image or KKK robes. More average white workers, who are victims of capitalism too, are being enticed to see racism as the answer to the problems of capitalism.

Working Class Has A Record for Smashing Nazis

We influenced many demonstrators with our leaflet, the only literature with a class analysis of racism. It made the important point that fascist and racist speech comes at a cost; which is the lives of countless numbers of workers in the U.S. and worldwide. It cost the lives of 6 million Jewish people and 60 million lives to defeat the Nazis in WWII. Racism has made life a living hell for millions of Black and immigrant people in this country. The ending of slavery came at the price of 600,000 deaths during the Civil War.

The few strides made by Black workers in this country owe as much to urban rebellions and militant confrontation against racists groups such as the KKK as to non-violent civil rights marches. PLP and other anti-racist forces have being fighting fascist and racist groups since the 1960s. Past PLP Actions have made attacking the KKK/Nazis popular! One veteran demonstrator said, "Back in the 1970s, PLP and INCAR (Committee Against Racism) terrorized the KKK in Boston. That was great." In 1979, we led hundreds to attack the KKK Grand Wizard at Boston City Hall. This has inspired the working class to fight and stop fascist and racist groups.

Let us not cheapen these past fights by allowing the rebuilding of racist and fascist movements. Reject the liberal fascist warmongers when fighting fascists; we must build a mass movement that fights racism, sexism and imperialist war and unites workers of all races and nationalities to build a world where all work and fruits of the labor are shared. That society without wages or racism is called communism.✪

CUNY: Gear Up for a Semester of Fightback

As the fall semester begins at the City University of New York, nearly 275,000 students are returning to the classroom. Once again, the students are the primary targets of vicious racist attacks and cutbacks, as U.S. imperialism continues its relative decline and sharpening rivalry with Russian and Chinese imperialism. As imperialist wars rage and widen across the world, CUNY students - the majority of whom are Black, Latin, Asian and are immigrant - are saddled with rising tuition costs, crumbling infrastructure, increasingly poor job prospects, and increasing military recruitment to fight and die for U.S. imperialism.

Years of bosses' racist attacks on students have made it possible for attacks on campus workers and faculty.

Fewer places is this clearer than at Kingsborough Community College (KCC), one of the largest colleges in the CUNY system. KCC has a total of over 15,000 full time and part time students, mostly Black, Latin and immigrants from across Eastern Europe, the Middle East, and Central/South Asia. Its maintenance and cafeteria staff is mostly Black, Latin, and Asian, in contrast to the faculty, which are almost completely white. With disproportionately higher numbers of immigrant, undocumented and students with DACA status, KCC students are at the cutting edge of capitalism's system-wide racist attacks.

Members of the Progressive Labor Party have been selling CHALLENGE and making contacts outside KCC. The students, workers and faculty there paint a picture of a campus in need of building a mass, fighting PLP there to smash these racist and sexist attacks.

Students: Main Targets of Bosses' Racism

To the capitalist bosses, students represent future wage-slaving workers, future empire-saving soldiers, or both. As the U.S. capitalist crisis worsens, increasing student tuition is the most obvious racist attack on KCC students.

Following the most recent political-economic crisis of U.S. capitalism in 2008, the bosses bailed out Wall Street banks with billions of workers' tax dollars, deeply cut education funding, and raised the cost of tuition. Tuition has increased every year since 2011. On June 26, CUNY trustees (who come from some of the top Wall Street-tied investment banks and firms) voted to increase yearly tuition another $200 for a total of $6,530/ year for senior colleges, and $4,800/ year at the community colleges. At this same meeting, the trustees voted to cut the operating budgets that actually fund the schools by 1 per cent. The top salaries of CUNY administrators, however, were raised up to $402,700/ year. Chancellor Milliken passed this round of salary increases. Apparently, he's satisfied with his $724,470/ year (NY Post, 6/26).

The true costs of college are far more than just rising tuition, however. At colleges like KCC, where many students are non-white and disproportionately single parents, expenses like MetroCards, textbooks and childcare can present impassable obstacles to maintaining full-time student status. Many students have family or work obligations that do not allow a full-time course load, which can complicate financial aid and scholarship packages.

For example, students hoping to qualify for the "Excelsior Scholarship," which provides free tuition to certain students, must be enrolled full-time in consecutive semesters, and do not even qualify if they make under $50,000/ year (studybreaks.com, 4/19).

In comparison, students working full-time at the New York state minimum wage of $10.50/ hour will only receive an annual salary of about $21,840/ year. In 2020, when the minimum wage increases to $15/ hour, that full-time salary will reach $31,200/ year.

KCC Workers: 'Too Many Coaches, Too Few Players'

The situation of the mostly Black and high percentage women campus workers at KCC is worsening fast. While CUNY cuts the entire operations budget each year, at KCC 28 maintenance workers have left in two years, out of about 80 originally. And the college isn't replacing them- supervisors in suits are a common sight but, as one worker explains, it's like having a sports team "with too many coaches and not enough players."

CUNY's cuts mean the campus is in a state of deterioration and collapse, with heavier burdens falling on fewer maintenance workers. Bathrooms regularly flood and are shut down; toilet tissue can be scarce. Workers are burdened with maintaining more buildings and tasks they can han-

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Trump Ends DACA, Intensifies Fascism

The timing couldn't be worse for the 575,000 undocumented immigrants in Houston after Hurricane Harvey. Racist President Donald Trump shut down DACA, Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, effectively putting 800,000 young people at risk of deportation. This signifies the rise of concentration-camp style fascism for a section of the working class. The possible, but unlikely, action of Congress to pass a new DACA program will be an opportunity for liberal fascism via military service.

Trump tweeted, "We are a nation of laws. No longer will we incentivize illegal immigration. Make no mistake, we are going to put the interest of AMERICAN CITIZENS FIRST!"

Intensified racism, nationalism, and use of "law and order" to terrorize workers are some of the hallmarks of rising fascism.

Horrors for the Working Class

DACA was a concession by then-president Obama after hundreds of thousands, if not millions, of undocumented-led youth fought for legalization and immigration justice. Their actions included occupations, demonstrations, marches, hunger strikes, blocking deportation buses, and more. The Dreamers Movement centered around a liberal narrative of "deservingness," which not only reinforced the racist good-bad immigrant divide, but also was patriotic and legalist in nature (analysis of the movement in future issue).

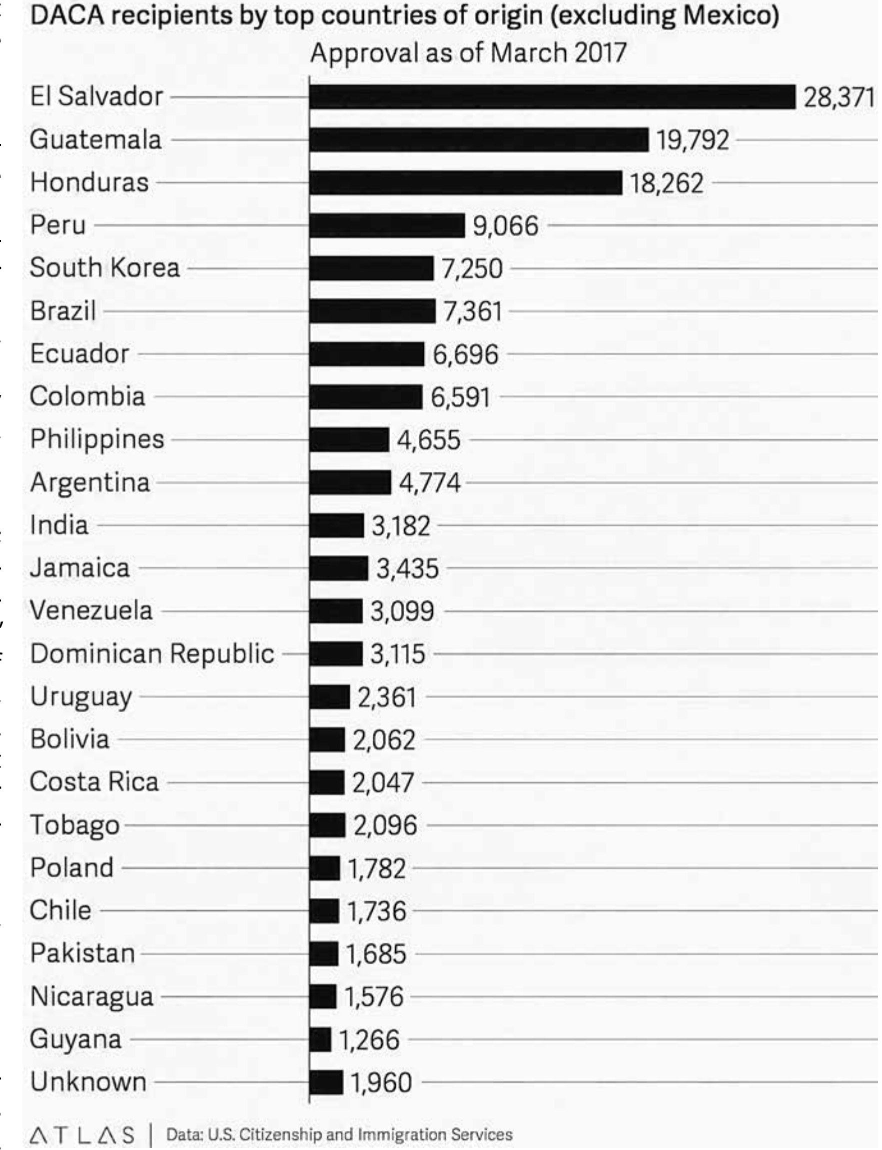
Unsurprisingly, DACA coincided with the largest deportation operation in U.S. history under the first Black president who ran on a progressive Democrat ticket. In exchange for voluntarily giving their biometrics, address, and all personal information to the government, DACA recipients were permitted to work, study, serve in the military with the promise to delay, not block, their deportation for two years.

Losing DACA is about more than the looming threat of deportation; it's about fostering unlivable conditions, which may lead to what Friedrich Engels, called "social murder." The prospect of being robbed of their jobs, education, right to drive, and housing is capitalist violence. Many may not be able to support their families or keep a roof over their heads. "…In Alabama, Georgia and South Carolina, they would be barred entirely from enrolling in some colleges and universities" (NYT, 9/7).

War-Driven Concerns for the Ruling Class

Don't mistake the outcry of big-time mouthpieces and politicians as compassion for the working class.

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DACA by country of origin. Recipients from Mexico total over 618,000.

Obituary:
Lenny, Communist Fighter Till the End



Soy communista, toda la vida
Y communista he de morir
—Bella Ciao, Italian anti-fascist song

Lenny Dick was a communist his entire life. His parents (a carpenter and a math teacher) were active members of the Communist Party and Lenny grew up in a family committed to revolutionary, anti-racist, working class struggle. When he died from a heart attack on August 26, at the too-young age of 68, he was on his way to a barbecue for CUNY students and professors. The day before, Lenny was enthusiastically talking about a planned rally at Bronx Community College about the expiring union contract. He was already making plans to invite faculty and students.

Lenny joined the Progressive Labor Party at Columbia University, where he was a member of Students for a Democratic Society and took part in the famous 1968 sit-in against Columbia's racist expansion into Harlem and its war research for the military. After college, Lenny became a Junior High School math teacher in East Harlem, where he was devoted to his students and opposed to a racist, segregated educational system.

In the early 1980's, Lenny was teaching at Morris High School. Author Jonathan Kozol cited it as a prime example of racist neglect of minority students. Located in a working-class Bronx neighborhood, Morris HS was both segregated and falling apart -- an old building with leaking roofs, vermin, and live wires hanging dangerously in the auditorium. Large classes and few resources to help students, left many behind in reading and math. Many dropped out before graduating. Lenny worked with members of student government to demand improvements. When no one would listen, the students organized a walkout and rally outside the school.

Lenny had three young children and was his family's only breadwinner. The students asked him to join them and speak at the rally. Lenny knew he could face disciplinary action, but he felt obligated to join the students. Hundreds walked out and demonstrated (forcing the Department of Education to begin making some repairs), and Lenny was there. The DoE rewarded him by taking away his state teacher's license, so he could never teach in a public school again.

Lenny then taught math at a religious school for affluent students, not where he wanted to be. But he kept organizing. When Eleanor Bumpurs, a 66-year old grandmother living in a Bronx public housing complex failed to pay less than $400 in rent, a special unit of the NYPD broke down her door. Startled, Eleanor picked up a butter knife and turned to the six heavily armed officers, who killed her with a 12-gauge shotgun. Members of PLP organized rallies against this racist murder. Lenny was in the thick of it. He became friends with Eleanor Bumpurs' daughter, Mary, and invited her to speak at the Progressive Labor Party's communist May Day March in Washington, DC, which she did.

When Lenny retired from high school teaching, he began teaching math as an adjunct at Bronx Community College, which he loved. He was teaching working class students and he was in a union again (the Professional Staff Congress). Although he had graduated from an Ivy League college and was very knowledgeable about math (as well as being an excellent chess, poker and Scrabble player), Lenny was never an elitist. He loved his long conversations about politics and life with all kinds of people he met, and was just as comfortable talking with a school cleaner or secretary, as with a professor. He gave CHALLENGE to everyone.

When workers at the Bronx Stella D'Oro bakery went on strike for many months, Lenny was a regular on the picket lines, bringing professors and students with him. He talked for hours to the strikers from dozens of different countries. Many appreciated the strike support, the discussions about communism, and receiving Challenge newspaper. Lenny helped organize support for the strike. Workers spoke at campus union meetings, and the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) faculty union donated money to the strikers. Lenny helped organize a Christmas party at Hostos Community College for the strikers' children, and helped bring busloads of NYSUT teachers from other cities to the picket line. Strike captains would meet with Lenny and other Party members at the bar across the street to discuss strike strategy and communism, including the possibility of seizing the plant.

Ramarley Graham, an unarmed, Black teenager, was murdered in his home by cop Richard Haste. He had done nothing wrong. The cop went unpunished. When hundreds of anti-racists, including many PL'ers, marched, Lenny organized PSC members to attend. He became friends with Ramarley's parents, Constance and Frank, sitting in their living room, discussing everything from citywide protests to personal difficulties. That was Lenny—good comrade and friend, strong fighter against a rotten, racist system.

On campus, Lenny fought hard against racist tuition increases for students and for better pay and working conditions for adjuncts and other campus workers. He marched against the wars in Iraq and Afghanistan explaining they were not "mistakes" but the outgrowth of imperialism. Lenny particularly loved bringing anti-war resolutions to the national teacher conventions and doing battle with the union leaders who supported U.S. aggression around the world.

In June of this year, parents, students and teachers at Park Slope Collegiate held a rally on the last day of classes to support the principal and teachers under attack by the DoE for their anti-racist efforts. Although it was hot and he was walking slowly, Lenny was there. He said how proud he was of the teachers and students who were fighting against racist segregation.

Lenny was a mentor to many with tons of political experience, but he was always modest, and often said that many previous communists had sacrificed much more than he had. Lenny always tried to balance the need for patience with a sense of urgency. He was always trying to push the class struggle forward, and to remind people that we can only end capitalism with collective struggle, which means building the communist Progressive Labor Party. He did that for a half century. He will be deeply missed.✪

CUNY: Gear Up for a Semester of Fightback

Continued from page 2

dle. Most workers are forced to do jobs outside of their specific job title, and do so out of their commitment to providing KCC's students with the best learning environment they can.

Many workers have worked at KCC for decades. Despite worsening conditions, many campus workers look out 'beyond their job title' to take care of students, workers, and faculty alike - an attitude of solidarity that all must learn from, and emulate, if a strong movement is to be built here.

Faculty: Adjunct Profs Pitted Against Full-timers

The working conditions of the mostly-white working class faculty, while relatively better, are worsening with their class sisters and brothers among the students and campus workers.

CUNY has come rely on adjunct professors for instruction, who are now 59% of all CUNY faculty, but paid about one third of what full-timers make. Teachers' working conditions are students' learning conditions. While the professors' union, the Professional Staff Congress (PSC) won certain benefits for adjuncts recently, the situation is worsening faster than the union can hope to keep up.

Issues like scheduling and teaching loads, as well as a path to full-time status, are among the issues motivating adjunct professors, whose struggles must be joined by full-timers to achieve.

KCC's reliance on adjunct labor is no different than throughout CUNY. With the rise of 'adjunctification' throughout CUNY, faculty are following their students and campus workers with intensifying factory-like exploitation, where the education itself becomes more visibly a commodity, like everything else under capitalism.

An Injury to One Is An Injury to All

Decades of attacks on students have occurred with the growing needs of U.S. imperialism for obedient, low-wage workers and obedient soldiers in the widening wars between the U.S., Russian and Chinese imperialists. By keeping our struggles separate, the capitalist class has been able to segregate and control our class with racism, sexism and nationalism.

There is very little, if any, significant political contacts and joint organizing among the segregated students, workers, and faculty. But all of this can turn be turned around, and we call on all students and workers to join PLP and organize to fight back together.

We need to organize together and fight back for better conditions for all- immigrant and citizen, Black and white. The longer campus workers and faculty to remain segregated to their narrow unions, the longer this dark night of capitalist attacks will be.

PLP is building a mass, international party for communist revolution to smash these racist borders, racist police attacks, and racist cutbacks in education to pay for the bosses' imperialist wars.✪

LETTERS

We encourage all CHALLENGE readers to send in letters and articles about their experiences fighting the bosses worldwide.

Workers Protest Macron-Style Fascist Attacks

My wife and I are visiting Paris, and joined the big demonstration called by the major unions to protest labor law changes which will take away rights the workers won in struggle over the past century (*see photo above*).

Tens of thousands marched under union and political banners, with loud chanting and signs. Even the occasional rain didn't stop them. It was a very integrated march, with white, Black and Asian workers, men and women, young and old, marching together. At one point, there was even a loud singing of the Internationale.

But sadly, because the union leadership is tied to the bourgeois political parties, all the demands were against the changes, not against the system that's always trying to take back workers' victories everywhere. The new laws, which president Emmanuel Macron will issue by decree to avoid a fight in the National Assembly, will break workers' rights to their jobs, reduce pension rights, end limits on night and overtime work and more. All this is in the name of efficiency and competitiveness against other imperialist bosses.

Macron was elected a few months ago, mainly because he's not an open fascist like Marine Le Pen. Many of the workers who voted for him on that basis must now be realizing that under capitalism there is no lesser evil. Imagine what today's march of 100,000 workers could have accomplished if they were fighting for communism, not reform.

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Mosely & British Fascism

The *Guardian* published an article (9/8) worth reading about the Nazis in Britain before and after World War II through a discussion of Morris Beckman's book *The 43 Group: Battling with Mosely's Blackshirts*. Sir Osswald Mosley led British Nazis. He was from a wealthy British family and was married into the Mitford family, wealthy and highly placed in British society. Through his in-laws, he met Adolf Hitler in 1936.

Being the chief Nazi in Britain earned Mosley a prison sentence during the war. There were many protests when he was released. Upon his release, he reorganized his British Union of Fascists. Nazis did not need much of an excuse to attack Jews in Britain, and they tramped out the usual anti-Semitism. This led to many racist marches and attacks on Jewish, African, South Asian people in Britain.

On a personal note, I was about nine when the war ended. My family lived in Kilburn in London, one of the centers of Nazi and anti-Nazi activity. At the end of the road I lived on was a Communist Party bookstore. My uncle frequented this store. Besides occasionally buying the comic books I read he would get a copy of his Daily Worker, the newspaper of the Communist Party. There were often discussions in my house between the conservatives (my mother and grandmother), the left-winger (my father), and the communist (my uncle).

My uncle and his friends got involved in fighting the local Nazis. Sometimes he came home looking a bit knocked about. Being one of only three Jewish students in my school, I was under constant anti-Semitic attack. The attacks taught me to fight well. My friends would support me, but I was in a fight a couple of times every week.

According to the *Guardian* this period of fascism ended around 1949, but there was still plenty of open anti-Semitism around in 1956 when I had to sign up for National Service (British equivalent of the military draft).

The *Guardian* wrote, "Fascism is one of those creatures which, once its head has been cut off, soon enough grows another one. Little remembered today is that at the end of the war, with German cities in ruins, Hitler dead and Nazism seemingly destroyed, Mosley and his men were released from prison. Undeterred and unrepentant they went straight back to what they'd been doing before the war."

Fascism is like a hydra, the serpent-like monster from Greek mythology. We have to keep cutting its heads off and bury its roots of capitalism deep. Only communism and hundreds of years would end this process.

★★★★★

Problem with Labeling Fascists as Just "Hate Groups"

When speaking of the Klan and Nazis, the concept of hate is largely misplaced. What these fascist groups, not hate groups, really do is downgrade entire groups of workers to subhuman status, not worthy of rights to thrive or even to live.

The concept of subhuman is rooted in the plantation-owners' attitude toward enslaved Africans since the 1600s, and the similar regard of Native Americans even before that time. The subhuman status of enslaved Africans allowed the theft of their bodies and forced backbreaking labor, while that of Native Americans justified the theft of their land and genocide. Hate only lent support to the practical needs of this theft of labor and land, and guaranteed enrichment for the planter class.

Regarding the crimes of fascist groups as based on hate, or labeling them "hate crimes," allows members and supporters of the ruling capitalist class to brand the anti-racist left with the same label. After all, don't we anti-racists hate racists and fascists? And is it not proper for us to do so? Hate is an accusation that only muddies the water.

Let's take away from ruling class propagandists this symmetrical branding of the concept of hate—the false idea that both sides are wrong. The real issue is the exploitation and oppression (that necessitate the degradation of the exploited and oppressed to subhuman status through racism and sexism) versus our determined resistance and rebellion against those evils. Acknowledging that there is no symmetry places the blame solely on the exploiters and their fascist helpers, the side where it belongs.

In recognition of this asymmetry, some members and supporters of the capitalist class hypocritically denounce the Klan and Nazis, out of one side of their mouths, for the very racism that they themselves practice daily in a hundred less obvious institutional ways. They profit greatly from doing so, and by dividing the working class in that fashion, they secure their control over their exploitative system. Without racism their days would be numbered.

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Eternal War in Afghanistan

Donald Trump administration announced more troops in Afghanistan. Trump ran on an "America First" platform which implied defending the homeland and avoids getting involved abroad. Politicians, ruling-class intellectuals, and former National Security advisors, both Republican and Democrats, pushed for more troops "long-term commitment" to war. National Security Advisor General McMaster proposed sending more troops and was joined by two of Obama's Defense Secretaries, Leon Panetta and Ash Carter, as well as many U.S. generals, active-duty and retired.

Former Trump advisor Steve Bannon favored using mercenary contractors to replace the U.S. troops and had former Blackwater chief Erik Prince to the White House to push his plan to privatize the Afghan war. Not only was this proposal rejected, but also Trump and 30 advisors held a long-anticipated daylong discussion of Afghanistan at Camp David on the day Bannon was fired.

Adding 5,000 U.S. troops to the 8,400 already in Afghanistan might sound modest. For each 100 U.S. soldiers, there are another 50 on "temporary duty", 50 allied troops (mostly European), and 500 "contract" workers from mainly Asia and Africa (for equipment maintenance, transporting supplies, and preparing food). So, every 100 U.S. soldiers translates to 500 added to the imperialist war machine.

During Trump's campaign and since his election, he has repeatedly asked, "Why isn't the U.S. winning," and "Why are we still there after 16 years?" As to the first question: in addition to a weakening U.S. and competition from its rivals, Afghanistan's neighbors, mainly Pakistan, don't want the U.S. to win. Many in the Pakistan ruling class support the Taliban. When the U.S. armed and funded the Taliban to fight the Soviet invasion, they did so through Pakistani Intelligence. Those bonds remain strong. Another complication is Iran working more with the Taliban, continuing a 20-year history of both fighting against and working with them.

As to the second question, many in the ruling class figure "if we can't win, then we can at least not lose." They argue that the war could go on forever without a high cost: "only" $8-10 billion a year (plus another $5 billion a year in bribes and "aid" to Pakistan to guarantee access), and "only" a dozen U.S. soldiers killed each year. This is seen as a cheap and acceptable compared to the $200 billion a year former president Bush spent in Iraq. The comparison is made to South Korea, where U.S. troops have been stationed for 70 years. To these ruling-class voices, it does not matter if deaths of those in Afghanistan are over 8,000 a year and climbing.

Workers have no dog in the fight between the "establishment" rulers and the "America First" gang. The racist profit system only promises more imperialist war. The only way out is to organize to overthrow the entire system.

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Trump Revokes DACA, Complicates War Plans

No Deportations, No Borders

Continued from page 4

Obama laid out ruling-class concerns very clearly: "'It is self-defeating— because they want to start new businesses, staff our labs, serve in our military, and otherwise contribute to the country we love'" (9/5). DACA youth are good for U.S. imperialism and their war drive. Many in the main wing of the ruling class understand that. Ostensibly, Trump does not. To some, it may look like ruling class anarchy. Within the bosses' camp, there are deep-sown divisions and lack of centralization and discipline. This disarray flares up during a period of decline of the U.S. empire. In their infighting, blatant Nazi racism won out.

The DACA decision complicates their war plans. DACA soldiers applied to the exclusive military program MAVNI (Military Accessions Vital to the National Interest). "[It was] designed to exchange fast-tracked citizenship for crucial medical and language skills among foreign-born recruits. The program has rotated 10,400 troops into the military since 2009" (Washington Post, 9/7). One look at North Korea, Afghanistan, and China, and it's clear they are going to need those troops.

Secondarily, they are worried about economic stagnation: "So this is a double blow to the U.S. economy; it will make everyone worse off. A cohort of relatively high-wage, highly motivated people mostly in their 20s, likely to pay lots of taxes for decades, is exactly what the doctor ordered" (NYT, 9/5).

Break the Racist Narrative

As if dividing the working class along the lines of race, gender, and nationality wasn't enough, the rulers drive a wedge between "good undocumented immigrants" and "bad undocumented immigrants." Part of the liberal pity over DACA is that the program was for the "hardworking, model civic citizens" who had so much "talent" to contribute to this warmongering nation. This put undocumented youth on the path of nation building, nationalism, and war.

All undocumented workers—DACA-eligible or not—must be defended by the rest of their working-class brothers and sisters. Workers migrate out of necessity because the choice is always between the degrees or types of oppression. The stateless undocumented Rohingya people choose to flee to the floods and mass poverty in Bangladesh over ethnic cleansing in Myanmar. Similarly, people in El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras choose possible death across the border over mass anti-worker violence in their countries of origin.

We don't get to choose our choices under capitalism. For the millions undocumented and refugees families across the world, there is one choice to end all state violence and terror. That's the choice of communism. Neither the Republicans nor the Democrats can provide a solution because they are part of the capitalist state. Thousands took the streets after Trump's decision, and more are looking for answers. In the name of a better world, wherever we are, seek out a community organization near you or organize in your schools, workplaces, and unions to stand with, and fight with, undocumented workers. Progressive Labor Party fights for a world without borders. Join us now.✪

LAS VEGAS, Sept 10—Hundreds march in response to Trump's DACA decision.

RED EYE ON THE NEWS . . .

Below are excerpts from mainstream newspapers that may be of use for our readers. Abbreviations: NYT=New York Times, GW=Guardian Weekly, LAT=Los Angeles Times

Fascism, U.S. Style: Trump and Arpaio's concentration camps

NYT, 8/28 — As sheriff of Maricopa County, Ariz., Joe Arpaio engaged in blatant racial discrimination…. systematically target[ing] Latinos,…arresting them on spurious charges and…beating them up when they questioned those charges….

…Many were sent to Tent City, which Arpaio…proudly called a "concentration camp," where they lived under brutal conditions, with temperatures inside the tents…rising to 145 degrees.

…Court orders…[were] simply ignored…which led to his eventual conviction…for contempt of court….

…Trump tried to get the get the Justice Department to drop the case….And when that ploy failed, Trump, who had already suggested that Arpaio was "convicted for doing his job," pardoned him….

…There's a word for political regimes that round up members of minority groups and send them to concentration camps:…What Arpaio brought to Maricopa, and what the president of the United States has just endorsed, was fascism, American style.

Indonesia: Strikers block roads, aim weapons at world's largest gold mine

NYT, 8/30 — …Located in Indonesia, one of the world's most valuable chunks of land has long been owned by Americans. Called the Grasberg mine, it…[is] the world's largest gold mine and second-largest copper mine….

…In 2015, Grasberg's output of gold and copper was worth $3.1 billion…[but] pays little in taxes….

Grasberg…has been rocked by strikes since May, after…cutting its workforce. Protests have…become violent, with demonstrations blocking roads and bringing weapons….[and setting] vehicles on fire.

Racist Unemployment's effects spread, and are increasing, across all elements of life

NYT, 8/23 — The jobless rate for black Americans is generally about twice that of white Americans…and persists no matter the level of educational attainment….

…The persistence of twice-as-high joblessness for black workers has led policy makers to accept it as normal….

…Even when the economy picks up…black people have a harder time getting jobs and are paid less than similarly situated white workers….It points clearly to racial discrimination, not just in hiring, but in a range of public policies that disproportionately affect black people. These include the dearth and high cost of child care, which harms single mothers the most; poor public transportation in many rural and suburban areas, which makes keeping a job difficult; and mass incarceration of black men and barriers to employment that go with it….

…The wage gap between black and white workers is larger now than it was in 1979 or in 2000, and has grown the most for college graduates.

Is it the Red (double) Cross? Where's the money going?

NYT, 8/30 — …It is important [to]…ask…for greater accountability from the American Red Cross….the flagship of charitable institutions…. a master of promotion. After every disaster, its ads, celebrity testimonials and distinctive logo are everywhere beseeching Americans to donate blood and money. Barack Obama became the Red Cross's latest Twitter pitchman, urging Americans to make a $10 donation by texting "HARVEY." During…Trump's televised update on the response in Texas…a Red Cross representative sat front and center….

A 2015 investigation by ProPublica and NPR documented the Red Cross's glaring failure to account for how it spent $488 million it raised in the aftermath of the Haiti earthquake in 2010, including…how many people were assisted and how much money was spent on overhead.

In the aftermath of Hurricanes Sandy and Isaac, Red Cross officials…"compounded the charity's inability to provide relief by 'diverting assets for public relations purposes"'….During Isaac, a Red Cross relief truck driver named Jim Dunham described how supervisors ordered trucks laden with aid to drive around empty, for appearance's sake. Mr. Dunham characterized the Red Cross's relief efforts as "worse than the storm." During Hurricanes Katrina and Rita in 2005, the organization was plagued by delays in distributing aid, amid profound disorganization on the ground….

Despite the Red Cross's enormous size and revenues ($2.7 billion in 2015)….its record on large-scale operations is spotty….[with] less accountability than Americans might expect emanating from its grand marble headquarters in Washington.

U.S. mega-bomb escalates Afghan's 'interminable agony'

GW, 4/21 — Tramp's random use of the "mother of all bombs" in Afghanistan has dramatized the U.S. failure to win the father of all wars — a conflict begun by George W. Bush in 2001…and that is now in its 16th year.

Afghanistan is the longest-running conflict in U.S. history, and for the Afghan people it has become an interminable agony. Civilian casualties are rising. In 2016 they were the highest the UN has ever recorded: 11,500 non-combatants killed or wounded, a third of them children….

…The U.S….Massive Ordinance Air Blast (MOAB) device [is] the biggest non-nuclear bomb in its inventory….

…Trump seemed unconcerned about the impact on civilians, or how such unilateral escalation may look to the rest of the world….

…In Iraq, civilian casualties are rising….The U.S. air force seems to be behaving particularly recklessly. It has yet to accept full responsibility for its disastrous bombing of an apartment building in Mosul…which killed `150 people.

Building Bolsheviks: Part III

Legality and Revolution

Many workers, students, and soldiers are interested in fighting racism and building a movement for a better world. In countries like the U.S., violent clashes between antiracist workers and open fascists like the KKK have sharply raised the question: when is it acceptable to break the capitalists' laws?

The Progressive Labor Party fights for communism, for the abolition of capitalism through armed revolution of masses of workers. Racism and these racist borders, police terror, sexism, and imperialist wars will be smashed and outlawed with an armed working class ruling society, and preventing a capitalist comeback with force. The capitalist class will never allow themselves to be removed from power without a fight. Whether the form of capitalist rule is more democratic or more openly repressive, threatening capitalism is always illegal, and the bosses' state will always defend itself.



Bolshevik volunteers, 1917

Germany: Reformism's Road to Disaster

In the late 1800s and early 1900s, the workers' movement in highly developed industrial countries like Germany enjoyed mass support. They had fought for and won legal recognition over decades of bitter struggle, and won the respect of the working class along the way. Many workers at the time believed that, given Germany's developed industrial economy and powerful, organized trade unions, that revolution for workers' power must logically begin there.

The politics that workers are won to is always the decisive factor, however. While fighting militantly for reforms became a proud working class tradition in Germany, few workers were won to organizing for revolution. Over time, the workers' organizations became intimately tied to the German capitalist class, with ultimately disastrous results.

For example, the leadership of the trade unions was tightly controlled by a majority of the capitalist Social-Democratic Party. When workers demanded a general strike against the bosses, the workers' Trade Union Congress was influenced by Social-Democratic leaders to decide against it. Union leaders regularly collaborated with the bosses on long term agreements on wages, hours, and working conditions, tying the workers hand and foot to the very capitalist system exploiting them and preparing their children to fight and die in World War I. Since the Party there considered themselves 100 pecent legal, a recognition they had proudly fought to win, they organized demonstrations with the permission and compliance of the police (sound familiar?)

At the outbreak of World War I, a war of rival imperialists in which the working class had no stake, the workers' parties and unions completed their betrayal of the workers by supporting German imperialism. In their insistence at fighting for and remaining within the bosses' laws, the once-mighty workers' organizations became little more than imperialist tools.

At the same time, a multiracial party women and men communists organizing across the vast Russian Empire, nicknamed "Bolsheviks," solved the question of legality a different way: by organizing for illegality. During World War I, the Bolsheviks were able to turn the guns around on the warmakers and create the first workers' state.

Bolsheviks Find Road to Revolution

They did this by organizing fightback directly within the ranks of workers, and struggling over revolutionary ideas from the beginning.

A Bolshevik named Osip Piatnitsky arrived in the city of Odessa, Russia in 1905 to organize the Party after the Russian bosses slaughtered 1,000 workers at a peaceful march. His accounts are instructive for today's communists. In response to the massacre, revolutionary Bolshevik organizing occurred on ships, small tailoring shops, and large tobacco factories. Bolshevik workers painstakingly made connected the workers' day-to-day demands with the need for armed revolution, and organized study groups around communist ideas.

Before strikes, workers in many factories and shops went on strike early. In one general strike, the police tried to beat the striking workers into submission. Workers responded by overturning empty train cars, throwing stones and iron fences.

Following these uprisings, the frightened Russian bosses' mouthpiece, the Tsar, issued a manifesto proclaiming newer and more liberal freedoms. Almost immediately however, racist attacks against Jewish workers began in nearby Moldavanka. Unlike the misleaders of the German workers' movement, who coordinated their activities carefully so as not to risk their prized legal status, Bolshevik-organized workers fought back in solidarity with Jewish workers in bitter street combat with the racist police. Despite many workers sustaining injuries, Piatnitsky wrote that after these events, the Odessa Party Committee increased its membership! As the Bolsheviks had confidence in the working class and filled its ranks with the best organizers among them, so did the working class gain confidence in the Bolsheviks and in communist ideas.

By World War I, this confidence grew tremendously and proved decisive. The working class in the Russian Empire responded to the Bolsheviks' call for the seizure of power in 1917, and ended the imperialist World War I with a new state- what became the Soviet Union. The Soviet Union became a beacon of light to workers around the world, putting capitalism on the defensive for the first time in history.

The international working class today is struggling and fighting back in a dark night of sharpening fascism and imperialist wars. The rise of fascist movements around the world means that workers today cannot afford to repeat the mistakes of the workers in Germany one century ago. PLP follows in the footsteps of the Bolsheviks, to learn and emulate the best traditions of the past while learning and correcting inevitable political errors. Fight for a mass international anti-imperialist movement of millions of workers to fight back, and seize power for revolution- for communism. Join us!✪